



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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Fish and Wildlife Service Accepting Proposals Through Private Stewardship Grants Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting proposals for private land conservation funding through its Private Stewardship Grants Program. Nationwide about \$6.5 million is available to support on-the-ground conservation efforts on private lands.

In 2004, private landowners in Hawaii took top honors by garnering \$1.1 million out of \$7 million available nationwide, and in 2003 they received \$1.2 million out of \$10 million.

The Private Stewardship Grant program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit federally listed endangered or threatened species, candidate species, or other at-risk species. Grant recipients must provide at least 10 percent of the total project cost either in nonfederal dollars or in-kind contributions (including volunteer labor) or equipment. A state-sponsored university or conservation group can submit a proposal as long as a willing private landowner is involved.

Last year, this valuable program funded 12 projects throughout Hawaii that are expected to help conserve the habitat of a wide range of species from endangered plants on Maui to the endangered Kauai cave wolf spider and to koloa and nene on the Big Island.

Applications must be received in Portland, Oregon, by March 21. Information on how and where to submit proposals is available at the Service's Private Stewardship Grant Website at http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html. Completed proposals must be submitted to: PSPG Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181.

Project proposals from Hawaii compete for funding with those from other western states. Applicants are encouraged to seek additional guidance from Service representatives in Hawaii prior to submitting a proposal. Please contact Craig Rowland at 808/792-9450 or e-mail at craig_rowland@fws.gov if you plan to submit a proposal.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

